

TESTIMONY ON PROPOSED HB 6600.

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Senators and Representatives, fellow Concern Residents of Connecticut: Good afternoon/morning. My name is Samuel Agyei. I am a student of the University Of Connecticut School Of Social Work. I am very honored for the opportunity given to me to testify in support of **HB 6600, *AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SUSTINET PLAN.***

This plan seeks to guarantee all Connecticut residents access to their choice of high quality health coverage and health care. It also seeks to end worries about losing access to health care during major life transitions like changing jobs, finishing school or starting a new business as well as eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health care coverage. Lacking health insurance has serious consequences. It is associated with increased severity of illness, increased cost of health care, reduced worker productivity and for, children lower educational attainment. The private and public cost that results from increase number of uninsured residents in Connecticut makes it essentially imperative to support SUSTINET'S plan for universal, affordable and sustainable health care for all residents of Connecticut. According to research by Connecticut Health Policy Project, one in eleven Connecticut residents lacks health coverage risking long term damage to their health and economic well-being. The uninsured often pay the highest prices for their care, full retail prices not the discounted prices HMOs and government pay. Two out of three uninsured adults are workers, this in effect leads to lower worker productivity. The SUSTINET plan is an opportunity for Connecticut to bring cost under control, stimulate our state's economy and serve as a model for the Country. It is a system of continuous, coordinated and efficient service that will make the right amount of health care available to all at the right time. Furthermore **HB 6600** is compatible with national reform plans with places our dear state

at the fore front of states addressing health care issues and makes Connecticut a leader in America's quest for Universal Health Care.

In conclusion I will like to remind honorable Senators and Representatives that access to quality health care for all is a giant step toward eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities, so I urge you all to support the SUSTINET plan. Please Legislators do no harm by unanimously passing the SUSTINET plan for the state of Connecticut.

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity offered me to testify and express my support for HB 6600.

Thank You.